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United States Patent [19][11] **Patent Number:** 5,940,793**Attwater et al.**[45] **Date of Patent:** Aug. 17, 1999[54] **VOICE-OPERATED SERVICES**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

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[58] **Field of Search** 704/231, 275

A method and apparatus accesses a database where entries are linked to at least two sets of patterns. One or more patterns of a first set of patterns are recognized within a received signal. The recognized patterns are used to identify entries and compile a list of patterns in a second set of patterns to which those entries are also linked. The list is then used to recognize a second received signal. The received signals may, for example, be voice signals or signals indicating the origin or destination of the received signals.

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37 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets